

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00

EB-07 FRB-03 INR-07 NSAE-00 CIEP-01 SP-02 STR-04

TRSE-00 LAB-04 SIL-01 SAM-01 OMB-01 OPIC-03 L-02 PA-01

PRS-01 USIA-06 /069 W

----- 005756

R 021734Z MAY 75

FM USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8801

INFO ALL EC CAPITALS 626

AMEMBASSY MEXICO CITY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EEC, MX

SUBJECT: EC/MEXICO--ROUND ONE GOES WELL

REF: A. EC BRUSSELS 2077 AND PREVIOUS B. EC BRUSSELS 3678

1. SUMMARY: NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN MEXICO AND THE EC LEADING TO A COMMERCIAL COOPERATION AGREEMENT OPENED IN BRUSSELS APRIL 29-30. TALKS WENT WELL, WITH THE MEXICAN SIDE ACCEPTING THE BROAD OUTLINES OF THE EC'S NEGOTIATING MANDATE (REF A) . A DRAFT TEXT IS TO BE PREPARED FOR THE NEXT, AND LIKELY FINAL, ROUND IN JUNE. END SUMMARY.

2. THE EUROPEAN CUMMUNITY AND MEXICO FORMALLY OPENED NEGOTIATIONS THIS WEEK WHICH ARE EXPECTED TO LEAD TO SIGNATURE OF A 5-YEAR NON-PREFERENTIAL COMMERCIAL COOPERATION AGREEMENT BY MID-SUMMER. THE MEXICAN DELEGATIONS, LED BY UNDER SECRETARY OF INDUSTRY AND COMMERCE, E. MENDOYA BERRUETO, MET WITH ITS EC COUNTERPART, HEADED BY

MANFRED CASPARI, DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL FOR EXTERNAL
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RELATIONS, IN BRUSSELS ON APRIL 29-30. THE

OPENING OF NEGOTIATIONS FOLLOWS CLOSE ON THE RETURN OF EV VICE PRESIDENT SOAMES FROM AN OFFICIAL VISIT TO MEXICO (REFTEL B).

3. THE CORE OF EC/MEXICAN COOPERATION UNDER THE PROPOSED AGREEMENT WILL CONSIST OF A NON-PREFERENTIAL MFN TRADE ARRANGEMENT AND EFFORTS TO MAXIMIZE THE UTILITY TO MEXICO OF THE EC'S GSP. IN KEEPING WITH EARLIER EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST IN A BROADER AGREEMENT (SEE REF B AND PREVIOUS) THE MEXICANS URGED THAT THE POWERS OF THE NEW EC/MEXICO JOINT COMMITTEE UNDER THE AGREEMENT BE DEFINED AS BROADLY AS POSSIBLE. IN ADDITION, THE "EVOLUTIONARY CLAUSE" IN THE PROPOSED ACCORD WILL ENABLE THE MEXICO AGREEMENT TO BE GRADUALLY BROADENED AS THE COMPETENCIES OF THE COMMUNITY VERSUS THE MEMBER STATES EVOLVE (E.G. IN THE FIELD OF ECONOMIC COOPERATION).

4. FROM THE EC SIDE CASPARI RAISED THE ISSUES OF PROTECTION OF EC INVESTMENT AND NON-DISCRIMINATORY ACCESS TO MEXICAN NATURAL RESOURCES. THE MEXICAN SIDE REPORTEDLY GAVE ASSURANCES THAT EXISTING LEGISLATION PROVIDES EFFICIENT LEGAL PROTECTION AND THAT FOREIGN INVESTMENT IS WELCOME. WITH RESPECT TO NON-DISCRIMINATION REGARDING FLAGS IN SHIPPING, THE MEXICANS INDICATED THAT THE NEW UNITED NATIONS CODE FOR LINER CONFERENCES WOULD ADEQUATELY COVER THESE ISSUES. IT IS FELT THAT ALL OF THESE ISSUES CAN BE ADEQUATELY DEALT WITH BY MEANS OF EXCHANGES OF LETTERS AND DECLARATIONS IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE NEW AGREEMENT.

5. ACCORDING TO A COMMISSION CONTACT PARTICIPATING IN THE NEGOTIATION, THIS FIRST ROUND WENT VERY SMOOTHLY AND IT HAS BEEN AGREED THAT A DRAFT TEXT WILL NOW BE PREPARED FOR CONSIDERATION AT THE NEXT ROUND SOMETIME IN JUNE. OUR CONTACT IS CONFIDENT THAT JUNE WILL SEE THE AGREEMENT WRAPPED UP, THUS PERMITTING SIGNATURE BEFORE THE SUMMER BREAK IN AUGUST, WITH ENTRY INTO FORCE PLANNED FOR JANUARY 1, 1976. GREENWLAD

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: RELATIONS WITH REGIONAL ORGS, PREFERENTIAL TARIFFS, NEGOTIATIONS, TRADE AGREEMENTS, MEETINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 02 MAY 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975ECBRU03927
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750155-0365
From: EC BRUSSELS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750583/aaaacyau.tel
Line Count: 99
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 EC BRUSSELS 2077, 75 AND PREVIOUS EC BRUSSELS 3678
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 09 APR 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <09 APR 2003 by Izenbel0>; APPROVED <15 APR 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: EC/MEXICO--ROUND ONE GOES WELL
TAGS: ETRD, MX, EEC
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006